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RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE
TC/A.U. 1734

Remarks

Claims 1-20 are presented for Examiner Mayes' consideration.

Applicants thank Examiner Mayes for the telephone conference on April 17th concerning this response. Pursuant to that conversation, Applicants believe that the amendments made herein place the application in condition for allowance.

Claims 1, 10, and 16 have been amended to provide proper antecedent basis for the term "pair of seams." Support for this amendment can be found at least at page 17, lines 17-22 of Applicants' specification. No new matter has been added.

Claim 10 has been amended to correct a spelling error. No new matter has been added.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.116, reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks and the following response is respectfully requested.

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Response to Rejections

By way of the Office Action mailed January 18, 2007, claims 1-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention.

As discussed above, the word "side" has been deleted and there is proper antecedent basis for the claimed "a pair of seams." Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

By way of the Office Action mailed January 18, 2007, claims 1-4, 6-11, and 13-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as allegedly being obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made and thus unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,979,380 to Thorson et al. (hereinafter "Thorson"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Thorson is disqualified as prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103

Present Application 10/734,843 and U.S. Patent 6,979,380 to Thorson et al. were, at the time the invention of Application 10/734,843 was made, owned by Kimberly-Clark Worldwide Inc. Common ownership is evidenced at least by assignment records. Specifically, assignment of the present Application 10/734,843 was recorded on 12/12/2003 at reel number 014806 and frame number 0654. Assignment of Patent 6,979,380 to Thorson et al. was recorded on 01/28/2003 at reel number 013719 and frame number 0452.

Applicants respectfully request that this reference be disqualified and the rejection as to these claims be withdrawn.

For the reasons stated above, it is respectfully submitted that all of the presently presented claims are in form for allowance.

Please charge any prosecutorial fees which are due to Kimberly-Clark Worldwide, Inc. deposit account number 11-0875.

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The undersigned may be reached at: (920) 721-3016.

Respectfully submitted,

RUSSELL EVAN THORSON

By:



David J. Arteman

Registration No. 44,512

Attorney for Applicant(s)